



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Dyslexia is a learning disability characterized by difficulty in recognizing words accurately and/or fluently, spelling, and decoding words and speech sounds. Dyslexia may also result in reading comprehension difficulties that reduce the reading experience and impede the expansion of vocabulary and general information; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately four in every ten children in the U.S. experience literacy difficulties and 10–20 in every 100 struggle with dyslexia. Although children in Pre-Kindergarten may display symptoms of dyslexia, many students with the disability are not diagnosed until much later when treatment options are limited and they have fallen behind their peers academically; and
- WHEREAS: Over the years, research has shown that a child who completes second grade without gaining the skill of reading has only a one-in-four chance of reading at grade level by the end of elementary school. However, if a child is introduced to reading and provided critical learning skills in kindergarten or the first grade, he or she has a significant chance of becoming a fluent reader; and
- WHEREAS: If identified early, a learning disability can be treated, and the majority of children with learning disabilities will have opportunities to reach their full potential; and
- WHEREAS: Despite the prevalence of learning disabilities, many members of the general public and leaders within academic communities are unaware of how to access and implement treatment options for dyslexia. Organizations including the International Dyslexia Association are committed to providing information on treatment options and additional resources to improve the lives of those affected; and
- WHEREAS: Dyslexia Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the dedicated education and health care professionals who are working to address the needs of those with the disability; and
- WHEREAS: During Dyslexia Awareness Month, citizens and advocacy groups are encouraged to share information regarding dyslexia with the general public, including parents, teachers, and other community members to help those affected by dyslexia reach their fullest potential; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2018 as DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF